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ABSTRACT

This book focuses on the practice and ideology of the languages of Israel, examining the extent to which the present linguistic pattern may be attributed to explicit language-planning activities. The chapters give balanced analyses of the history and current status of the revitalized national language, Hebrew; of the other official language, Arabic; of the all-pervasive international language, English; of the large number of immigrant languages; and of the fate of many Jewish languages. It considers the major impact on the country's multilingualism of the nearly one million Russian speakers. This is all tied together with an account of the new language education policy, noting the likelihood that the long hegemony of Hebrew is giving way to an evolving acceptance of linguistic diversity. The chapters are: (1) "Language Practice and Policy in Israel"; (2) "Language Policy"; (3) "Hebrew as a Mother Tongue"; (4) "Hebrew Language Acquisition and Diffusion Policies"; (5) "Arabic: The Language of the 'Minorities'"; (6) "Teaching Arabic as a Second Language"; (7) "English: Everybody's Second Language"; (8) "The Other Languages of the Immigrants"; (9) "The Loss and Maintenance of Jewish Languages"; (10) "Languages of Recent Immigrants"; and (11) "Change or Continuity?" (Contains approximately 400 references.) (SM)

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